

REMARKS

Claims 1-73, 90-145, 150-169, 198-201 and 218-225 are pending in the present application.

Claim 1 is amended to contain the limitations of original claim 210, plus any intervening claim, and to recite that the carrier layer is a rigid polymer layer.

Claims 74-89, 146-149, 170-197, 202-217 and 226-228 are cancelled.

Claims 90-104, 150-157, 162-165, 198-201 and 218-221 are amended to correct the dependency.

No new matter is entered as a result of the amendments.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 210-225 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 210 including the limitations of original intervening claims 146 and 174. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the carrier is, in the alternative, a rigid polymer layer. Support for the amendment is set forth at page 31 lines 14-19 of the specification and in the original claims.

Claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth in the previous action and the fact that the prior art fails to recite, or even suggest, a rigid polymer layer.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-16, 21-45, 62-89, 122-129 and 130-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2339800 (GB'800).

Claim 1 has been amended, as discussed above, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 74-89 have been cancelled thereby rendering the rejections directed thereto moot.

Claims 2-16, 21-45, 62-73, 122-129 and 130-133 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 1-16, 21-45, 62-89, 122-129 and 130-133 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2339800 (GB'800) is rendered moot by amendment.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 103

Claims 17-20 and 226-228 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800.

Claim 1 has been amended, as discussed above, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 226-228 are cancelled thereby rendering the rejections directed thereto moot.

Claims 17-20 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 17-20 and 226-228 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 130-146 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP 1113458 (EP'458) or vice versa.

Claim 1 has been amended, as discussed above, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claim 146 is cancelled thereby rendering the rejection directed thereto moot.

Claims 130-145 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 130-146 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP 1113458 (EP'458) or vice versa is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 90-122 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP'458 or vice versa and further in view of US Patent 4,455,323 (US'323).

Claim 1 has been amended, as discussed above, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 90-122 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 90-122 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP'458 or vice versa and further in view of US Patent 4,455,323 (US'323) is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 146-169 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP'458 or vice versa and further in view of US Patent 4,741,993 (US'993).

Claim 1 has been amended, as discussed above, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 146-149 are cancelled thereby rendering the rejections directed thereto moot.

Claims 150-169 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 146-169 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP'458 or vice versa and further in view of US Patent 4,741,993 (US'993) is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 226-228 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '800 in view of EP '458 or visa versa and further in view of US Patent Publication 20030024479, hereinafter US '479.

Claims 226-228 are cancelled thereby rendering the rejections directed thereto moot.

The rejection of claims 226-228 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '800 in view of EP '458 or visa versa and further in view of US Patent Publication 20030024479, hereinafter US '479 is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 46-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP'458 or vise versa in view of EP'364 or US'993 and further in view of US Patent 5,460,853 (US'853).

Claim 1 has been amended, as discussed above, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 46-61 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 46-61 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP'458 or vice versa in view of EP'364 or US'993 and further in view of US Patent 5,460,853 (US'853) is rendered moot by amendment.

Claims 170-209 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP'458 or vice versa in view of EP'364 or US'993 and further in view of US Patent 4,983,848 (US'848).

Claim 1 has been amended, as discussed above, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claims 170-197 and 202-209 are cancelled thereby rendering the rejections directed thereto moot.

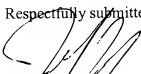
Claims 198-201 ultimately depend from claim 1 and are believed to be patentable for, at least, the same reasons as claim 1.

The rejection of claims 170-209 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB'800 in view of EP'458 or vice versa in view of EP'364 or US'993 and further in view of US Patent 4,983,848 (US'848) is rendered moot by amendment.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-73, 90-145, 150-169, 198-201 and 218-225 are pending in the present application. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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